

# Historic Pub Tour

The Tweed Valley in northern NSW is home to some of Australia's oldest – and quirkiest – country pubs. Here you can drink in stunning views of Mt Warning from the old verandah of the Mt Warning Hotel, soak up the sun at the Bruns, prop up the bar once presided over by Australia's oldest publican and toast the sun set over the river at the legendary Tumbly Pub.

Nominate a designated driver and head off on our own private historic pub tour or get a group of friends together and share the cost of transport and a driver, such as Tweed Coast Tours & Charters (Ph: 0429 988 885, Email: [les@onthenet.com.au](mailto:les@onthenet.com.au), Web: [www.tweedcoasttours.com](http://www.tweedcoasttours.com)) who cater for groups from 10 to 60 and more. However you decide to travel, our Historic Pub Tour is a great way to tour the Tweed ... and a great day out.



[www.tweedtourism.com.au](http://www.tweedtourism.com.au)

**1800 674 414**



### Tweed Historic Pub Tour

Discover the Tweed's historic pubs on this scenic day trip

## SUGGESTED DAY-TRIP ITINERARY

From Tweed Heads, take the Pacific Motorway south to **Billinudgel** and **Brunswick Heads**. Take the scenic Tweed Valley Way to **Mooball** and continue via Stokers Siding to **Uki**. Head back towards Murwillumbah and take the turn-off to **Tyalgum**. Return to **Murwillumbah** via the same road or follow the western wall of the Caldera to Chillingham and Crystal Creek. From Murwillumbah, get back on the Tweed Valley Way and take the turn-off to **Tumbulgum**, returning to Tweed Heads via the Motorway.

For a detailed Google map, go to

<http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117768711948151238115.00046a3b50d3d688e1b54&z=10>

# Historic Pubs of the Tweed



## **Billinudgel Hotel (The Billi Pub)**

**Established: 1907**

1 Wilfred Street, Billinudgel, NSW, 2483

Phone: 02-6680 1148

Website:

[www.qdaypubs.com.au/nsw/billinudgel.html](http://www.qdaypubs.com.au/nsw/billinudgel.html)

The Billi Pub is famous for its long-time licensee, Ma Ring, who took over the hotel in 1929 and continued as licensee for almost 54 years until her death in 1983 at the grand age of 101 years – by then, the oldest hotel licensee in Australia and possibly the world.

Her real name was Margaret Alice Ring but that was shortened to 'Mar' because almost every parcel that arrived for her was simply addressed with the initials M.A.R.

Her story and that of the Billi Pub is told in the old newspaper clippings and pub-abilia that now adorn the walls of this local treasure, amidst the classic old beer mirrors. You'll also find more information on the pub and its famous owner on the website above, including the story about Ma giving former Prime Minister Bob Hawke a 20-minute lecture on how to serve a good beer.



## **Hotel Brunswick (The Bruns)**

### **Established: 1940**

Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads, 2483  
Phone: 02-6685 1236  
Email: [enquiries@hotelbrunswick.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hotelbrunswick.com.au)  
Website: [www.hotelbrunswick.com.au](http://www.hotelbrunswick.com.au)

The first hotel in Brunswick Heads was built from local pit-sawn in 1884 by Bob Marshall. For more than 20 years, the Ocean View Hotel was the only establishment of its kind along the Northern NSW coast; described as a "fine and commodious weatherboard building with 14 rooms, first class cuisine and magnificent river views from the balcony."

In the early 1900s, the Marshalls sold the Ocean View to Mr and Mrs Currie who built a new establishment on the same site, which they opened in June 1909.

The present-day Hotel Brunswick was built by Jim Cavill, whose vision was to build a first class residential and holiday hotel. According to newspaper reports of the time, no expense was spared, with "expensive wine carpets" used throughout and the 16 bedrooms furnished with "honey-coloured silky oak". Above all, the architectural design was – and still is – a classic example of the art deco style popular in the 1930s and early 40s, and the hotel retains much of its original charm. Jim Cavill eventually moved north to create another famous landmark, the Surfers Paradise Hotel in what was to become Cavill Avenue.



## Victory Hotel

### Established: 1934-36

Tweed Valley Way, Mooball, 2483  
Phone: 02-6677 1202  
Email: [victoryhotel1@bigpond.com](mailto:victoryhotel1@bigpond.com)

The original licensed hotel in this part of the valley was actually located in neighbouring Burringbar. After it burnt down in the early 1930s, the owner decided to transfer the licence and rebuilt in the village of Mooball. His decision divided the two towns – and the local Mooball-Burringbar cricket team – and the move was reportedly challenged in the local court. The owner celebrated his win by naming the new Mooball establishment the Victory Hotel.

*Other attractions nearby:* The village of Mooball is one of the valley's quirky treasures. The residents have taken their name seriously by painting black and white cow patches on just about everything that doesn't move: The telephone poles, the local café and petrol station, the petrol pumps, the wheelie bins, even a random jeep that obviously parked too long on the side of the road.



## Mt Warning Hotel Established: 1916

Kyogle Road, Uki  
Phone: 02-6679 5111  
Email:  
[info@mtwarninghotel.com](mailto:info@mtwarninghotel.com)



Whilst you may think the Mt Warning Hotel was built away from the main Uki village centre in order to get the best views of Mt Warning, that's not quite the case. Apparently, when the Fitzhenrys applied to establish a hotel in Uki back in the early 1900s, they were refused. Being entrepreneurial types, they created a new subdivision on the other side of Rowlands Creek and built the hotel there.

The fact that there was no bridge across the creek at that time proved no deterrent to the thirsty locals who would wade to the pub on low level crossings. One such track ran from the Catholic Church direct to the pub. It became known as the 'Duck Track' ... because the men would duck across to the pub after church on Sundays.



*Nearby attractions:* Uki village was founded on timber-getting and dairying and there is still a strong base of dairy farmers in the region. More and more, however, Uki is becoming known as a centre of arts and crafts, with the old Buttery having been converted into a series of small studios and galleries where you can view local arts and crafts.

Behind the Buttery, you'll find a pleasant walking track along the banks of the river where the resident platypus families can often be seen at sunset.

Enroute to Tyalgum, you can detour along Mt Warning Road for a spectacular drive through the rainforest to Mt Warning *Wollumbin* National Park. The 4.4km trek to the 1157m peak takes a good four hours for the round trip and is not for the feint-hearted. For an easier option, take the 200m Lyrebird Track to a viewing platform overlooking this World Heritage rainforest.



## Tyalgum Hotel Established: 1926

31 Coolman Street  
Tyalgum NSW 2484  
Ph: 02-6679 3229  
Website: [www.tyalgumhotel.com](http://www.tyalgumhotel.com)

The Tyalgum Hotel was built by the same family who originally established the Mt Warning Hotel in Uki. Sadly, Mr Fitzhenry died shortly after the building was completed, leaving his wife to run a hotel in what was then a very isolated timber town.

The 'girl power' tradition continues today with current publican, Sue Kilcoyne, extending true country hospitality with great meals and regular live music.

*Nearby attractions:* Tyalgum village celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008 and the historic General Store still captures all the charm of its last century origins.

Other historic buildings include Bartrim's Garage, opposite the pub, and the Tyalgum Hall which is renowned for its amazing acoustics and plays host to the Tyalgum Festival of Classical Music over the first weekend in September each year.

The quaint country charm continues at Flutterbies Café situated in the old bakery (famous for its Flutterbie Cakes and Soulfire chocolate treats), The Little Shop Next Door, Paddington of Tyalgum, the Laughing Cat Gallery and Kenita's Decorative Crafts.

North of town on the Chillingham Road, you'll also get exception views of the towering back wall of the Mt Warning *Wollumbin* volcanic caldera.



## Imperial Hotel (The Impy)

**Established: 1931**

115 Main Street, Murwillumbah  
Phone: 02-6672 1036  
Email: [imperial@powerhotels.biz](mailto:imperial@powerhotels.biz)



The Imperial Hotel is one of Murwillumbah's most eye-catching historical buildings – predominantly because of the lolly-pink paintwork!

The original pub on this site was burnt down in the great town fire of 1907 which started in the bakery and raged for 24 hours, destroying 65 buildings. Rebuilt in 1908, the hotel was burnt down again in 1929 and the hotel we see today dates back to 1931.

Like the Brunswick Pub, the Impy reflects the art deco style of the era and retains all of its original charm, including the ghost of a former publican's wife who apparently haunts the room upstairs where she lived for many years.



*Nearby attractions:* The Impy's art deco architecture matches the 1930s feel of Murwillumbah's main street shopfronts, with key historical buildings including the Murwillumbah Court House and, just out of town, Lisnagar homestead which was built in 1902 and was for many years the home of the pioneering Twohill family.

As the commercial heart of the Valley, Murwillumbah features a range of excellent cafes and restaurants, such as Luffley's Café, Sugar Beat Café, the White Olive Restaurant and Tong's Thai on the River. Escape Gallery combines café fare with exhibitions of local fine arts and, at The Modern Grocer, you can sample some of the region's gourmet goodies.

The Tweed River Regional Art Gallery is a 'must see' attraction, containing an exceptional permanent portrait collection from the early years of the Doug Moran Portrait Prize. Located on a hill 2km out of town on the Tweed Valley Way, this contemporary gallery also offers exceptional views of Mt Warning and the Tweed Valley.

The Visitor Information Centre is located in the World Heritage Rainforest Centre which also features a diorama and video of the Mt Warning *Wollumbin* Caldera and more local arts and crafts.



## Tumbulgum Tavern (The Tumby Pub) Established: 1887

Tumbulgum Drive, Tumbulgum, NSW, 2490  
Phone: 02-6676 6202  
Email: [enquiries@tumbulgumtavern.com.au](mailto:enquiries@tumbulgumtavern.com.au)  
Website: [www.tumbulgumtavern.com.au](http://www.tumbulgumtavern.com.au)  
Licensee: Kit & Helen Gooley (Manager – Brent)

The Tumbulgum Tavern was the first pub built in the area (or, more precisely, the first 'grog shanty') and, more than 120 years later, it's still one of our local favourites.

Built at the confluence of the Rous and Tweed Rivers with views across to Mt Warning, it is the ideal spot to finish the day with sunset drinks.

One of the great stories highlighted in the historical photos and pub-abilia here is of the famous Tumbulgum Groper, caught by Joe Ostram in 1828. Weighing in at 800lbs, a 17-stone man could sit in its mouth and still have some headroom.

After spotting the massive fish in the river, Joe asked the local blacksmith to make a hook (on display at the pub) which he then baited with the hind of a calf. He used a 44-gallon drum for a float and a bushel bag of rocks for an anchor. The painting of the Tumbulgum Groper at the entrance to the pub depicts this monster at half size.

*Nearby attractions:* History buffs should walk around to the local cemetery which features many historical graves. Art lovers can browse through a number of galleries in the main street lining the riverbank, including Adrian Robert Turner's ocean-inspired canvases and surfboards in the gallery behind the House of Gabriel café/gift shop and the Tumbulgum Gallery which specialises in local arts and crafts.





## Extend your stay ...

If you would like to extend your Historic Pub Tour over one or two days and explore some of the many other attractions of the Tweed Valley, there are plenty of places to stay for a night or two.

In addition to the accommodation available in some of the historic hotels listed, the valley also offers everything from budget-priced backpacker hostels, motor inns and caravan parks through to secluded rainforest hideaways and luxury retreats.

For a comprehensive list of accommodation options and to make a reservation online, go to:

[www.tweedtourism.com.au](http://www.tweedtourism.com.au)

**Ph: 1800 674 414**

or call into our Visitor Information Centres at:

<b>MURWILLUMBAH</b>	<b>TWEED HEADS</b>	<b>KINGSCLIFF</b>
Cnr Tweed Valley Way & Alma St Murwillumbah NSW 2484	Shop 7, 1 Wharf Street Tweed Heads NSW 2485	Marine Parade Kingscliff NSW 2487
<b>Operating Hours:</b> Mon-Sat: 9.00am - 4.30pm Sun: 9.30am - 4.00pm	<b>Operating Hours:</b> Mon-Fri: 9.00am - 4.30pm Sat: 9.30am - 3.00pm Sun: 10.00am - 2.00pm	<b>Operating Hours:</b> Wed-Sun: 9.15am - 4.45pm Closed 12.30pm - 1.00pm